In this issue

CPDE hosts session on inclusive development partnerships at Stockholm Civil Society Days 2019
PAGE 03

CPDE holds study conference on development cooperation in contexts of conflict and fragility
PAGE 07

CPDE joins People’s Assembly 2019, signs declaration
PAGE 09

CSO platform CPDE leads Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces
The Belgrade Call to Action asks United Nations Member States and other development stakeholders to act and reverse the closing and shrinking space for civil society, to stop the attacks on human rights defenders and refrain from under-mining democratic participation, and to renew the prospects for an inclusive agenda 2030 and the full realisation of the SDGs.

Activities related to the CPDE Global Day of Action 2019 are published on these pages: Facebook: @CSOPartnerships, Twitter: @csopartnership_, Instagram: @csopartnership, and YouTube: CSOPartnership. Participating organisations come from the following countries: Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Chad, El Salvador, Fiji, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Armenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, and Zimbabwe.

The Belgrade Call to Action asks United Nations Member States and other development stakeholders to act and reverse the closing and shrinking space for civil society, to stop the attacks on human rights defenders and refrain from under-mining democratic participation, and to renew the prospects for an inclusive agenda 2030 and the full realisation of the SDGs.

Activities related to the CPDE Global Day of Action 2019 are published on these pages: Facebook: @CSOPartnerships, Twitter: @csopartnership_, Instagram: @csopartnership, and YouTube: CSOPartnership. Participating organisations come from the following countries: Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Chad, El Salvador, Fiji, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Armenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, and Zimbabwe.

CPDE leads Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces

10 December 2019 — In partnership with 30 organisations around the world, the global CSO platform CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) has launched the Global Day of Action Against Shrinking Civic Spaces.

Under the theme ‘Working Together to Defend Human Rights and Civic Space for a Just and Sustainable World,’ the campaign aims to raise the awareness of different actors at national and global levels on the challenges faced by civil society organisations (CSOs) and encourage action to reverse the trend of shrinking civic spaces. It was planned in time for the International Human Rights Day, to establish that human rights are at the core of people-centered development.

Through the Global Day of Action, CPDE hopes to drive further support for the Belgrade Call to Action, which articulates the global civil society’s demands to reverse the pattern of shrinking civic space and worsening attacks on human rights. Moreover, CPDE and its partner organisations seek the popularisation of the CSO role as vital, independent development actors in their own right and partners for development, and the recognition of the importance of civic space and democratic governance in human rights-based approach to development.
The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) and the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment held a joint session on inclusive development partnerships at the Stockholm Civil Society Days 2019, last November 19, 2019 at Valhallavagen 199, Stockholm, Sweden.

Dubbed Inclusive Development Partnerships amid Shrinking Civic Spaces: Can CSOs be both watchdogs and partners of governments?, the session aimed to demonstrate the importance of inclusive partnerships to achieve sustainable development, and how CSOs and other development actors can promote said partnerships in the context of shrinking and closing civic spaces and increasing attacks on human rights defenders around the world.

The event opened with an overview moderated by Task Team’s Vanessa de Oliveira and CPDE Policy Coordinator Erin Palomares, and prominently featured a people’s debate, where participants formulated and discussed their position on whether CSOs can be both watchdogs and partners of governments in development partnerships.

It was followed by a townhall discussion, where panelists tackled the role that CSOs play in development partnerships from their specific viewpoint, and members of the audience were engaged to exchange perspectives with the panelists. Panel members included CPDE Co-Chairs Beverly Longid of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL) and Marita Gonzalez of Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT). CPDE Co-Chair Justin Kilcullen of Social Justice Ireland and CPDE Network Manager Jodel Dacara moderated the panel and the audience, respectively.

Capping the event was a Synthesis and Call to Action segment, which highlighted key insights from the debate and townhall discussion, presented the Belgrade Call to Action and Action Agenda to participants, and cited possible actions to address the issue of shrinking civic space, including signing the Belgrade Call to Action and Action Agenda. The segment was moderated by CPDE Co-Chair Monica Novillo of Coordinadora dela Mujer, and Hans de Voogd of Task Team.

The event took place at the sidelines of the Stockholm Civil Society Days (SCSD), which this year focused on the 2030 Agenda and the core principle to Leave No One Behind.

Gathering CSO actors involved in Swedish international development cooperation, SCSD is co-organised by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and CONCORD Sweden, a platform of Swedish civil society organisations working towards sustainable development.
1. **INDONESIA**
   INDIES Indonesia joined protest actions carrying the CPDE Global Day of Action messages to promote human rights and campaign against rising fascism and oppression of development workers, activists, and rights advocates.

2. **TONGA**
   The Civil Society Forum of Tonga marked the International Human Rights Day with a forum where people living with disabilities shared their concerns regarding civic participation.

3. **ARMENIA**
   The Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) – Armenia international fellows led a forum on various topics on human rights: Complications in Free Expression: The Case of Turkey; “Ethnic Minority Rights in Georgia, and Inmates’ Rights in France and Armenia: Application, drawing parallels to current trends in Armenia as regards civil society space. CRRC Armenia also held a public discussion on Current Challenges of Human Rights Advocates in Armenia on December 18.

4. **SRI LANKA**
   The Sri Lanka Nature Group led a solidarity action and human rights day commemoration with community representatives.
MOLDOVA
The Platform for Active Citizenship and Partnership for Human Rights (CAP) and the TDV Association urged MPs, employees of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, civil society representatives, and activists to promote the messages: Support the Belgrade Call to Action; Defend People’s Rights; Activism is not a Crime; Reverse the Trend of Shrinking Civic Space; Stop the Attacks on Human Rights Defenders.

MEXICO
DECA, Equipo Pueblo, AC joined the global day of action against shrinking civic spaces, by holding an action and releasing a joint statement asserting the civil society’s right to public participation, and calling on the state to create an enabling environment for the exercise of human rights. They also held a forum-debate at the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City to assess the situation, define their strategies, and demand a political dialogue with the government.

NEPAL
Dignity Initiative held an interactive dialogue on the impact of shrinking civic space on the Dalit of Nepal.

INDIA
The Dalit Alliance, in partnership with other India-based CPDE members, organised Global Day of Action activities promoting human rights and defense of democracy and civic participation.

KYRGYZSTAN
The Forum of Women’s NGOs held a photo exhibit and conference on the situation of women’s rights and human rights in the country.
Protests of an unprecedented scale have been ongoing in Lebanon since October 2019. The infographic visualises the main socio-economic grievances of these protests, showing the role civil society can play in building a just and sustainable society, and in advocating for universal human rights including socio-economic rights.

The second session focused on the sectoral impacts of the different forms of crises with speakers from the Feminist, Indigenous, and Rural constituencies. This session tackled how current humanitarian, peace, and development cooperation policies and strategies respond to the needs of these marginalized groups, or exacerbate the effects of the crisis on them.

The closing saw the presentation of a conference communique, which contained key messages drawn from the exchanges throughout the study conference. The communique highlights the need to promote the triple nexus approach in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of people living in conflicted, fragile, and occupied settings while maintaining its integrity from states’ security and geopolitical interests that could breed conflict.

The communique also emphasized the need for inclusion and meaningful participation of civil society organizations in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding processes and initiatives as a precondition to transparency and accountability of duty-bearers. It ends with a similar statement from the working group co-chairs’ messages that addressing the root causes of the problem remains a vital step in finding solutions that promote a just and lasting peace and realize the right to development.

Capping the event was a symbolic pledge of support by the conference delegation to the APN’s Million Trees Campaign (MTC) which aims to support Palestinian farmers in maintaining ownership of their land by replanting trees on Palestinian lands that were razed over the years by Israeli bulldozers.

The study conference took place in the Middle East and North Africa, home to several fragile and conflict-affected states. Nine out of the 10 largest recipients of international humanitarian assistance in 2016 are in the region.
ITUC releases publications on trade unions and SDGs

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), CPDE's focal point for the Labour sector, has published two important materials on the subject of trade unions and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2019 edition of A Trade Union Take on the SDGs compiles the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) that 17 trade unions in 14 countries have done of their respective governments' plan on the national implementation of the SDGs.

The M&E covered the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Mongolia, Tanzania, and Venezuela.

BCSDN reports on enabling environment trends for civil society development

Based on the framework of the Monitoring Matrix for Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, the BCSDN published a Regional Report on the trends in the enabling environment for civil society development in enlargement countries 2017/2018: “Growing Pressure on Civil Society and What to do About It?”

The report aims to fill the information gap regarding the developments in the civil society environment in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey during 2017 and 2018. The full Monitoring Matrix methodology will be implemented for the 2019 reporting period. The report also reflects the information submitted by BCSDN members (Partners Albania for Change and Development – Albania, Center for Promotion of Civil Society (CPCD) – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) – Kosovo, Macedonian Center for International Development (MCMS) – Macedonia, Center for Development of NGOs (CRNVO) – Montenegro, Civic Initiatives – Serbia, and Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV) – Turkey) participating in the third Monitoring Round within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Indicator II). It is part of BCSDN’s activities under the European Region Work Plan 2018 within the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE): “Grounding Effective Development Cooperation and Development Partnerships in People’s Realities and Realisation of Their Rights” financially supported by the Swedish International Development Agency – Sida.

The Report has been prepared by BCSDN Policy and Advocacy Officers Anja Bosilkova-Antovska and Biljana Spasovska, with expert input by Tina Divjak from the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS).


ITUC has also released an advocacy brief on how trade unions’ international cooperation programmes support the SDGs and the Development Effectiveness Agenda. The material presents examples of how trade union programmes contribute to the 2030 Agenda by drawing on the SDGs as well as the Development Effectiveness Principles.

The programmes addressed key sustainable development areas such as labour rights, social protection, gender equality, climate justice, business accountability, social dialogue, and industrial relations. In engaging in these domains, trade unions show commitment to their role as development actors at local, regional, and global levels.

People all over the world, in every country, every day, suffer from the overlapping impacts of inequality, poverty, violence, discrimination, militarisation, environmental degradation and a shrinking of their rights. We call on the Governments across the world to meet our demands with urgency and political determination. We call on Governments to meet and deliver on the global commitments made in 2015 in relation to the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, WPS Agenda (1325) and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. It is imperative that Governments address the interconnectedness of these agreements including agreements on financing,” the statement read.


CPDE representatives participated in the People’s Assembly organised by the Global Call To Action Against Poverty parallel to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit on September 24 to 25, 2019.

The assembly aimed to bring the “People’s Voices” to the fore at the Summit, strategize to reclaim civil society space, discuss the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and make recommendations for a stronger accountability mechanism, and strengthen the cooperation with various CSO networks for civil society actions and people’s movement.

CPDE Co-Chair Beverly Longid spoke on the civic space for indigenous peoples, while CPDE Special Emissary for the Belgrade Call to Action Emele Duituturaga facilitated the plenary with people’s representatives and representatives from UN and UN member states.

CPDE representatives highlighted the need to address the pattern of shrinking civic space, as stipulated under the Belgrade Call to Action. CPDE is one of 21 organisations behind the People’s Assembly.

CPDE also joined thousands of of people’s movements and organisations, and millions of people across the globe in signing the People’s Assembly Declaration, where they identified our world’s most urgent challenges, and demanded world leaders to take action on four global priorities which affect every living creature on the planet:

- Peace and Conflict
- Climate and Environment
- Inequality
- Decent Work and Discrimination

“We people all over the world, in every country, every day, suffer from the overlapping impacts of inequality, poverty, violence, discrimination, militarisation, environmental degradation and a shrinking of their rights. We call on the Governments across the world to meet our demands with urgency and political determination. We call on Governments to meet and deliver on the global commitments made in 2015 in relation to the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, WPS Agenda (1325) and deliver on the 2030 Agenda. It is imperative that Governments address the interconnectedness of these agreements including agreements on financing,” the statement read.


Photos of People’s Assembly Protest and of Beverly Longid by Oli Henman and Action for Sustainable Development
Meanwhile, IBON International Climate Justice Program Officer Ivan Enrile pointed out the importance of applying effectiveness and human rights principles in climate finance: “A human rights-based approach is focused on putting people first, and making it known that climate change is primarily about human suffering and misery, not merely an abstract scientific phenomenon.”

He also highlighted the call of civil society organisations and people’s organisations from around the world to reclaim the climate agenda amid corporate plunder and repression, as articulated in a sign-on statement.

Part of the document read, “We demand that developed countries pay for their climate debt to developing countries by providing adequate, predictable, and additional finance for climate adaptation, mitigation, reparation for irreversible losses and damages suffered by communities in the global South because of climate change, and just transition in developing countries.”

Global public climate finance, they add, should be “distinguished from existing ODA flows and must focus on the most vulnerable, not only in reference to countries, but also local communities including indigenous peoples, farming communities, coastal communities, urban slums, fisher folk, rural women, children, and other marginalized groups in society.”

CPDE’s reference group on climate finance also noted that effective climate finance is guided by principles of policy coherence, ownership, transparency, and predictability, with particular emphasis on supporting the countries that will be most affected by climate change.


CPDE organised a study conference titled “Promoting the Effective Development Cooperation Agenda in Climate Finance” in Madrid last December 9 to 10, 2019, in time for the UN Framework on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 25).

Through the event, which gathered representatives from various sectors and regions, CPDE sought to clarify its position on climate finance and identify its role and strategy in engaging civil society and other development actors on the subject. The conference yielded plans for engaging civil society to push the effective development cooperation agenda in climate finance.

Participants tackled opportunities and challenges in governing, delivering, and monitoring climate finance, noting how the delivery of climate funding is rife with issues especially regarding alignment with national development strategies.

Jahangir Masum, Executive Director of Coastal Development Partnership, identifies some of these challenges in his presentation: “The current international public adaptation finance flows are not sufficient to meet current needs, and the adaptation finance gap is likely to widen significantly over the coming years. Currently, there is no internationally agreed definition, rules or methodology for calculation, and inconsistencies and gaps exist in the current UNFCCC reporting framework for climate finance.”

He adds that there is lack of effort in mobilising the new and additional official development assistance (ODA) for climate finance, and instead too much attention on leveraging private climate finance, 90 percent of which usually targets mitigation activities.

CPDE Study Conference on Climate Finance gathers civil society reps, yields plans for CSO engagement
CPDE Feminist Group advocates EDC principles, NOD commitments implementation in Beijing+25

Members of the CPDE Feminist Group participated in the regional meetings of global review of the implementation of the commitments in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, known as the Beijing+25 process.

Taking part in the CSO pre-meeting and intergovernmental meetings, Rosa Belen Agirregomezkorta, Centro de Estudios e Investigación sobre Mujeres of Spain, Nurgul Dzhanavaeva of the Forum of women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, Patricia Blankson Akakpo of the Network for Women’s Rights in Ghana, Monica Novillo of Coordinadora de Mujer in Bolivia, and Shanta Shresta from the Beyond Beijing Committee in Nepal actively engaged in the planning and preparation processes based on the FG strategic plan.

Their participation in the processes contributed to the improvement of mechanisms for monitoring the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD) Article 16, where States, development actors promised to allocate and track resources for women’s rights and gender equality, strengthen capacity for gender-responsive budgeting and planning, and increase the participation of women’s organizations in partnerships for development.

Members of the FG were able to use data from the GPEDC 3 MR, specifically data on indicator 8, data from FG own process of data collection and analysis, and additional data from the national governmental reports on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. They developed a set of recommendations, and used the Beijing+25 to raise awareness and an interest in the FG advocacy for the transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in the areas of women’s rights and gender equality and investments to women’s rights and gender equality agenda.

During the regional reviews, Nurgul Dzhanavaeva made an intervention at the intergovernmental official session on smart investment and financing with key recommendations. She prepared an analysis on status of reporting on budget allocations for women’s rights and gender equality agenda and led this thematic area and facilitated discussion and development by an ad hoc group on financing implementation of the BPFA in Geneva.

“In order to ensure an adequate and effective financing to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls,” she said, “we advocate legal reforms to ensure that state makes obligatory, transparent and accountable budget allocations for effective implementation of commitments on women’s rights and gender equality taken in the Beijing Platform for Action, and call to put in place mechanisms to systematically track allocations to gender equality and women’s empowerment throughout the budget cycle and also to make these allocations public.”#
another dimension of corporate capture - via manipulation of democratic institutions, thus, affecting peoples’ rights. Meanwhile, Aid Watch Palestine’s Abed Al-Salehi reported on the decreasing and securitization of aid in occupied Palestine and how this pushes communities to utmost poverty and marginalization. Finally, David Hesaie of Pacific Islands Association of NGOs shared how CSOs in Fiji still struggle to engage with their national government against the latter’s lack of transparency and accountability.

CPDE sectoral representatives then discussed the corporate capture of development at the country-level, with Jenison Urikhimbam of Youth Forum for Protection of Human Rights, Kurniawan Sabar of Institute for National and Democracy Studies, Shanta Shrestha of Beyond Beijing Committee, and Rey Asis of Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants sharing their particular struggles such as violence against women and children, labor rights violations, land-grabbing, and forced displacement.

The delegates argue, persist because the agenda of corporations and governments do not actually support peoples’ rights. They called for accountability and reforms, and for duty-bearers to stop the attacks on peoples’ rights and end the culture of impunity.

The delegates were tasked to create advocacy plans and policy recommendations on specific projects financed by three major IFIs: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB).

Jiten Yumnam of Center for Research and Advocacy Manipur provided the state of play of these IFIs to level off all delegates in the workings, projects, and impact of the three development banks. Delegates were grouped into ADB, AIIB, and IMF-WB. Each group listed the projects of the development bank assigned to them and planned opportunities of engagements accordingly.

Final copies of the advocacy campaigns and policy recommendations will be the basis of CPDE Asia engagements with IFIs for 2020.
CPDE and Reality of Aid published *Assessing Aid and Militarism in Asia*, a collection of research essays discussing country-level challenges along the themes of aid and militarism, development cooperation, and conflict and fragility.

CPDE Latin America and the Caribbean successfully conducted their regional assembly last September 11 to 12, 2019, in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Through the meeting, CPDE LAC members aimed to exchange lessons on effective ways of engaging with other development cooperation actors, take stock of actions taken by the coordination body, elect new regional and sub-regional representatives; and plan for the 2019 to 2021 period.

The first day featured an activity, “Dialogue between multiple stakeholders in Effective Development Cooperation in Latin America”, where attendees addressed issues such as the capture of the state and democracy, presented the results of a research study by Oxfam, financing for development in the 2030 Agenda and regional integration processes, and the role of public budgets and fair taxes to expand rights and ensure the reduction of inequality gaps.

The next day saw the election of new officers: Malena Famá as Regional Coordinator (Youth Sector, South Cone sub-region Argentina), Georgina Muñoz Pavon (RECCNIC, CAMEX sub-region, Nicaragua) as second delegate to the Coordination Committee and as alternates to Maryam Amsale Ze-Dingel, (Association of Development Agencies Jamaica Caribbean sub-region), and Camilo Molina (Cooperation Observatory of Ecuador, Andean sub-region, Ecuador).

Members of the coordination body in the Southern Cone and CAMEX sub-regions were also elected: Cristina Prego (ANONG - Uruguay), Pedro Bocca (ABONG - Brazil) from the first region and Laura Becerra (Equipo Pueblo - DECA, Mexico), and Rubén Quintanilla (Funsalprodese, El Salvador) of the Central America region and Mexico. The Caribbean and Andean sub-regions pledged to choose their coordinators soon.

Finally, the assembly established their priority work areas: South-South Cooperation, accountability of the Private Sector and development effectiveness, and developing actions in particular for the Caribbean region on countries in situations of conflict and fragility.

CPDE or CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness is an open and global platform of civil society organisations (CSOs) working on and advocating for universalizing effective development cooperation (uEDC).

Through its advocacies and messages, CPDE brings together CSOs, as well as thematic groups and sectors, from different countries. At the moment, CPDE’s membership covers seven (7) geographic regions and eight (8) sectors. Its work is guided by five (5) advocacy priorities complemented by working groups to provide policy expertise and lead advocacy engagement.

Know more about the CSO Partnership.

www.csopartnership.org
www.facebook.com/CSOPartnerships
www.twitter.com/CSOPartnership_

Take part in the CPDE Newsletter. Submit updates to Meg Yarcia (Communications Officer) via myarcia@csopartnership.org.